

195. (Amended) A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward the purchase of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the selected gift;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than a purchase price of the gift; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price.

199. (Amended) A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward the purchase of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the selected gift;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than a purchase price of the gift; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price, and

wherein attempting to satisfy the purchase request comprises:

sending an offer to purchase the selected gift to a plurality of vendors;

receiving an acceptance of the offer from one of the vendors; and

32 requesting that the accepting vendor send the selected gift to the gift recipient.

200. (Amended) A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;

storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

32 receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward the purchase of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;

combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the selected gift;

automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than a purchase price of the gift; and

attempting to satisfy the purchase request,

wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price, and

wherein attempting to satisfy the purchase request comprises:

adding the purchase request for the selected gift to a gift list of gifts to be purchased;

aggregating purchase requests for identical gifts into a single purchase order;

BB sending an offer to purchase the gifts in the purchase order to a plurality of vendors;

receiving an acceptance of the offer from one of the vendors; and

requesting that the accepting vendor send the gifts in the purchase order to the appropriate gift recipients.

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209. (Amended) A gift registry computer system configured to enable a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the computer system comprising:

a communications circuit for connecting to a communications network;

a processor; and

BB a memory containing instructions executable by said processor to perform the steps of:

receiving gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient via said communications network;

storing the gift ideas in said memory or in another memory accessible to said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied via said communications network, an on-line display of the gift ideas;